



Together we will build a world-class city

City of Columbia Press Releases

March 1-31, 2015

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Monday, March 2, 2015

Contact: Office of Business Opportunities at 803-545-3950

The City of Columbia Calls for Presenters and Vendors for the 2015 Small Business Week Conference

The City of Columbia's Office of Business Opportunities is taking applications for presenters for the 2015 Small Business Week Conference on May 5-6, 2015. Potential presenters can include small business owners, contractors, manufacturers, retailers and firms. The deadline to apply is **Monday, March 2, 2015 at 5 p.m.**

The Office of Business Opportunities also invites businesses to serve as vendors at the 2015 Small Business Week Conference. Vendors will get a table to display their goods and services and tickets to the two-day event.

The Small Business Week Conference is an opportunity for local businesses both small and large to network with other business owners, city and county officials and subject-matter experts. To register for the 2015 Small Business Week Conference, click [here](#).

To apply to be a presenter or a vendor, visit www.columbiasc.net/obo or call 803-545-3950.

###

**Please see flyer attached.*



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Monday, March 02, 2015

Contact: Shireese M. Bell at 803-760-9125 or smbell@columbiasc.net

Community Garden Expo

The City of Columbia Parks and Recreation Department and the Columbia Sertoma Club have partnered to sponsor a citywide Community Garden Expo. The expo will be held on Saturday, March 7, 2015 from 10 a.m.-3 p.m. at Martin Luther King, Jr. Park and Community Center.

The public is invited to attend this **FREE** informative and hands-on gardening experience that will feature seminars, demonstrations, vendors and more. Garden experts such as Ed Brogden of Back to Eden will provide information on the economic, health and social benefits of community gardening.

Garden presenters and vendors can register for a table. The cost for presenters to register is free. Vendors can register for \$30. **The deadline to register is Wednesday, March 4, 2015.**

WHAT: Community Garden Expo

WHEN: 10 a.m. - 3 p.m. on Saturday, March 7, 2015

WHERE: Martin Luther King, Jr. Park and Community Center, 2300 Greene Street, Columbia, SC 29205

FEE: Free to the public and presenters; vendors are for \$30

To register to be a presenter or vendor, or for more information on the City's [Community Gardens Program](#), please call the Parks and Recreation Department at 803-545-3100.

###

****Please see the attached flyer***



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Monday, March 02, 2015

Contact: Shireese M. Bell at 803-760-9125 or smbell@columbiasc.net

Art Center to Offer Spring Break Art Camp

The Art Center is offering a 4-day multimedia visual art camp for children ages 6-12 from March 30-April 2.

The Spring Break Art Camp will include lessons on pottery, drawing and painting, and recycle art. **All materials are included in the registration fee of \$60.**

The camp will be held from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. Monday through Thursday at the Art Center, 1928 Calhoun Street.

The deadline to register is March 15. The camp size is limited to a maximum of 12 participants.

To download a registration form, visit the [City of Columbia Parks and Recreation's Cultural Arts page online](#).

For more information, please call Brenda Oliver at 803-545-3093.

###

****Please see the attached flyer***

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Monday, March 2, 2015

Contact: Marli Drum at 803-776-PETS

Columbia Animal Services to Offer Adoption Special on St. Patrick's Day

What: Cats and dogs at the Columbia Animal Shelter will be offered for \$17 on March 17, 2015. The adoption fee includes spay/neuter, microchip, Feline Leukemia/Heartworm Test, initial vaccines and deworming.

When: March 17, 2015

Where: Animal Services, 127 Humane Lane, Columbia, South Carolina 29209

For more information, contact Marli Drum at 803-776-PETS or visit ColumbiaSC.net.

###

**see flyer attached*

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Monday, March 2, 2015

Contact: Marli Drum at 803-776-PETS

Pet of the Week: Ree Ree! (ID# A195162)

Ree Ree is a three-month-old English Spaniel/German Pointer mix. She is very friendly and makes a great family pet. Ree Ree is also spayed and microchipped.

Visit Ree Ree and other pets available for adoption at the Columbia Animal Shelter, 127 Humane Lane. Visit www.columbiasc.net/animal-services or call 803-776-PETS for more information.

All of our pets need loving homes! To view other animals available for adoption, visit Petfinder.com. Please refer to the ID number listed above when visiting the website.

###

**Please see attached for photo.*



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Monday, March 02, 2015

Contact: Shireese M. Bell at 803-760-9125 or smbell@columbiasc.net

Registration Open for City Youth Baseball and Softball Programs
Baseball and Softball Expo held March 7, 2015

Registration for the City of Columbia Parks & Recreation Department's **Youth Baseball and Girls Softball Program** is underway.

Boys and girls ages 9-14 can participate in the program. Age levels are: 9-10, 11-12 and 13-14. The fee to participate is \$25 per person. Scholarships are available for those who qualify.

The last day to register is March 7, 2015. The Youth Baseball and Girls Softball season begins April 6, 2015. Games will be played at the following parks: Greenview, Hyatt, Lorick, Pinehurst, King, Earlewood and Valencia. (Locations are subject to change.)

The Parks & Recreation Department is also hosting a **Baseball and Softball Expo** on Saturday, March 7, 2015 from 12-4 p.m. at Greenview Park, 6700 David Street. The expo will feature games, player and coaches clinics, giveaways, guest speakers including Tampa Bay Rays Nick Ciuffo and more. **Volunteer coaches are needed for this year's baseball and softball program.** If interested in being a coach, please call 803-545-3100.

Registration for **City Sluggers**, the Parks and Recreation Department's instructional youth baseball program, is now open for boys and girls ages 4-8.

The program is an opportunity for youth to have fun and learn baseball fundamentals. [Children ages 4-6 (T-ball) and children ages 7 and 8 (Coaches Pitch)].

The fee to participate is \$25 per participant. Scholarships are available for those who qualify.

The last day to register is March 7, 2015. League play begins April 6, 2015.

To download a registration form, [click here](#).

Registration forms are also available at any City recreation center or at the Parks and Recreation Administration Office located at 1111 Parkside Drive, Columbia, SC 29203.

For more information, please call the Parks & Recreation Department at 803-545-3100 or email sariley@columbiasc.net.

###



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Tuesday, March 3, 2015

Contact: Community Development at 803-545-3373



Community Development to Host ALL ACCESS Columbia

Learn about neighborhood leadership, financial literacy and homeownership at Community Development's ALL ACCESS Columbia workshop on Saturday, March 7, 2015 from 8:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. at Alcorn Middle School, 5125 Fairfield Road.

The purpose of All Access Columbia is to provide important resources to Columbia citizens to help build an overall sense of community. Attendees will learn ways to improve the quality of life for their neighborhood, skills on budget management and financial literacy and benefits of homeownership and home improvements tips. Additionally, two financial classes will be offered for youth. This year's classes include:

- Neighborhood Fundraising
- Crime Prevention (Gang Violence)
- Creating Cash on a Budget
- Teenagers and Money (Grades 7 to 12)
- Climbing the Money Tree (Grades 1 to 6)
- Rookie Home Buyer
- Greenery Aesthetics

The workshop is free but registration is required. The deadline to register is **Wednesday, March 4, 2015 at 5 p.m.** There will be chances to win door prizes and refreshments will be offered.

Click [here](#) to register.

For more information, contact Community Development at 803-545-3373 or visit www.columbiasc.net.

###



For Immediate Release

March 3, 2015

Contact: Connie Lucius at (803) 545-4268

Advertisement of Vacancy for the Midlands Authority for Conventions Sports and Tourism

The City of Columbia is accepting applications for the Midlands Authority for Conventions Sports and Tourism Board of Directors. The mission of the Midlands Authority for Conventions Sports and Tourism includes: directing and managing the activities and mission of the Columbia Metropolitan Convention and Visitors Bureau, the Columbia Regional Sports Council and the Columbia Regional Visitors Center; and overseeing the development and operation of the Columbia Metropolitan Convention Center under a long-term management agreement for the benefit of the Governmental Entities: City of Columbia, Lexington County and Richland County.

The City is seeking an individual to represent the lodging industry as required in this board's by-laws.

All applicants must work/reside within Columbia city limits.

Deadline – Applications are due no later than Friday, March 20, 2015, 5 p.m.

For applications and more information contact Connie Lucius at (803) 545-4268 or send a request to cflucius@columbiasc.net. You can also visit our website at <http://www.columbiasc.net/boards-commissions> to download an application.

###



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Wednesday, March 4, 2015

Contact: Shireese M. Bell at 803-760-9125 or smbell@columbiasc.net

**Registration Open for City Youth Baseball and Softball Programs
Baseball and Softball Expo to be held from 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Saturday**

Registration for the City of Columbia Parks & Recreation Department's **Youth Baseball and Girls Softball Program** is underway.

Boys and girls ages 9-14 can participate in the program. Age levels are: 9-10, 11-12 and 13-14. The fee to participate is \$25 per person. Scholarships are available for those who qualify.

The last day to register is Saturday, March 7, 2015. The Youth Baseball and Girls Softball season begins April 6, 2015. Games will be played at the following parks: Greenview, Hyatt, Lorick, Pinehurst, King, Earlewood and Valencia. (Locations are subject to change.)

The Parks & Recreation Department is also hosting a **Baseball and Softball Expo** on Saturday, March 7, 2015 from **10 a.m. - 4 p.m.** at Greenview Park, 6700 David Street. The expo will feature games, player and coaches clinics, giveaways and more. **Volunteer coaches are needed for this year's baseball and softball program.** If interested in being a coach, please call 803-545-3100.

Registration for **City Sluggers**, the Parks and Recreation Department's instructional youth baseball program, is now open for boys and girls ages 4-8.

The program is an opportunity for youth to have fun and learn baseball fundamentals. [Children ages 4-6 (T-ball) and children ages 7 and 8 (Coaches Pitch)].

The fee to participate is \$25 per participant. Scholarships are available for those who qualify.

The last day to register is Saturday, March 7, 2015. League play begins April 6, 2015.

To download a registration form, [click here](#).

Registration forms are also available at any City recreation center or at the Parks and Recreation Administration Office located at 1111 Parkside Drive, Columbia, SC 29203.

For more information, please call the Parks & Recreation Department at 803-545-3100 or email sariley@columbiasc.net.

***Please note a time change. The expo will begin at 10 a.m. and end at 4 p.m. Tampa Bay Rays player Nick Ciuffo will not be able to attend due to spring training.**

###

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Thursday, March 5, 2015

Contact: Office of Business Opportunities at 803-545-3950

The City's Office of Business Opportunities to Hold Social Media Workshop for Small Businesses

The Office of Business Opportunities, in partnership with ECI-Find New Markets, is holding a social media workshop for small businesses on Thursday, March 26 at 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at 1301 Gervais Street. Registration is required.

The training is designed to teach small businesses strategies and tactics for social media sites including Twitter, Google+, Facebook, Pinterest, Tumblr and LinkedIn to better serve their businesses. An additional workshop will be held on Thursday, March 19.

The cost to register is \$10. To register, click [here](#).

For more information, contact the Office of Business Opportunities at 803-545-3950.

###



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Thursday, March 5, 2015

Contact: Public Relations, Marketing and Media at 803-545-3020

Google to Bring *Let's Put Our Cities on the Map* program to City of Columbia

Google, in partnership with Mayor Steve Benjamin and the Office of Business Opportunities, is bringing its *Let's Put Our Cities on the Map* program to Columbia with the Get Your Business Online workshop on Thursday, March 19, 2015 from 9 a.m.-12 p.m. at 701 Whaley Street. Small businesses in the Columbia area are invited to attend. Registration is required and limited.

While 97 percent of consumers look online for local products and services, nearly 53 percent of small businesses in South Carolina do not have a website. Small businesses that attend this workshop will get a free website for a year in addition to free tools, training and resources to help their businesses succeed online.

Let's Put Our Cities on the Map is Google's program to harness the support of local leaders, business organizations and citizens to help every business get online with one simple mission: to help local businesses be found on the web, on maps and on mobile phones.

To register, click [here](#).

For more information, contact Public Relations, Marketing and Media at 803-545-3020.

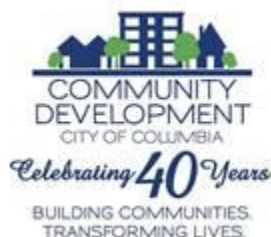
###



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Friday, March 6, 2015

Contact: Community Development at 803-545-3373



Community Development to Host ALL ACCESS Columbia

Learn about neighborhood leadership, financial literacy and homeownership at Community Development's ALL ACCESS Columbia workshop on Saturday, March 7, 2015 from 8:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. at Alcorn Middle School, 5125 Fairfield Road.

The purpose of All Access Columbia is to provide important resources to Columbia citizens to help build an overall sense of community. Attendees will learn ways to improve the quality of life for their neighborhood, skills on budget management and financial literacy and benefits of homeownership and home improvements tips. Additionally, two financial classes will be offered for youth. This year's classes include:

- Neighborhood Fundraising
- Crime Prevention (Gang Violence)
- Creating Cash on a Budget
- Teenagers and Money (Grades 7 to 12)
- Climbing the Money Tree (Grades 1 to 6)
- Rookie Home Buyer
- Greenery Aesthetics

The workshop is free but registration is required. There will be chances to win door prizes and refreshments will be offered.

Click [here](#) to register.

For more information, contact Community Development at 803-545-3373 or visit www.columbiasc.net.

###



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Friday, March 6, 2015

Contact: Shireese M. Bell at 803-760-9125 or smbell@columbiasc.net

2015 Community Garden Expo

The City of Columbia Parks and Recreation Department and the Columbia Sertoma Club have partnered to sponsor a citywide Community Garden Expo. The expo will be held on **Saturday, March 7, 2015** from 10 a.m.-3 p.m. at Martin Luther King, Jr. Park and Community Center.

The public is invited to attend this **FREE** informative and hands-on gardening experience that will feature seminars, demonstrations, vendors and more. Garden experts such as Ed Brogden of Back to Eden will provide information on the economic, health and social benefits of community gardening.

WHAT: Community Garden Expo

WHEN: 10 a.m. - 3 p.m. Saturday, March 7, 2015

WHERE: Martin Luther King, Jr. Park and Community Center, 2300 Greene Street, Columbia, SC 29205

FEE: Free to the public

For more information on the Community Garden Expo and on the City's [Community Gardens Program](#), please call the Parks and Recreation Department at 803-545-3100.

###

****Please see the attached flyer***



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Friday, March 6, 2015

Contact: Shireese M. Bell at 803-760-9125 or smbell@columbiasc.net

Registration for City Youth Baseball and Softball Programs Ends with Baseball and Softball Expo on Saturday

The registration period for the City of Columbia Parks & Recreation Department's **Youth Baseball and Girls Softball Program** ends Saturday, March 7.

Boys and girls ages 9-14 can participate in the program. Age levels are: 9-10, 11-12 and 13-14. The fee to participate is \$25 per person. Scholarships are available for those who qualify.

The Youth Baseball and Girls Softball season begins April 6, 2015. Games will be played at the following parks: Greenview, Hyatt, Lorick, Pinehurst, King, Earlewood and Valencia. (Locations are subject to change.)

The Parks & Recreation Department is hosting a **Baseball and Softball Expo on Saturday, March 7, 2015 from 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.** at Greenview Park, 6700 David Street. The expo will feature games, player and coaches clinics, giveaways and more. **Volunteer coaches are needed for this year's baseball and softball program.** If interested in being a coach, please call 803-545-3100.

Registration for **City Sluggers**, the Parks and Recreation Department's instructional youth baseball program, is open for boys and girls ages 4-8. The program is an opportunity for youth to have fun and learn baseball fundamentals. [Children ages 4-6 (T-ball) and children ages 7 and 8 (Coaches Pitch)].

The fee to participate is \$25 per participant. Scholarships are available for those who qualify. **The last day to register is Saturday, March 7, 2015.** League play begins April 6, 2015.

To download a registration form, [click here](#).

Registration forms are also available at any City recreation center or at the Parks and Recreation Administration Office located at 1111 Parkside Drive, Columbia, SC 29203.

For more information, please call the Parks & Recreation Department at 803-545-3100 or email sariley@columbiasc.net.

#



For Immediate Release

March 6, 2015

Contact: Connie Lucius at (803) 545-4268

Advertisement of Vacancies for the City of Columbia Boards & Commissions

The City of Columbia is seeking persons to serve on a variety of boards and commissions. Participation is another way city residents can take part in their government. Below is a list of boards and commissions that currently have vacancies.

Accommodations Tax Advisory Committee

Seeking two (2) Applicants for Re-Appointment/Appointment from the Hospitality industry; two (2) Applicants for Re-appointment/Appointment from the Lodging industry; seeking one (1) Applicant for Re-Appointment/Appointment who are considered At-Large businesspersons

The purpose of this committee is to review applications submitted for Accommodations Tax funding and make recommendations to Columbia City Council. Term – 2 years.

Columbia Housing Authority

Seeking one (1) Applicant for Re-Appointment/Appointment.

Responsible for the oversight of the Housing Authority and its Executive Director. Term – 5 years.

Deadline – Applications are due no later than March 20, 2015, 5 p.m.

For applications and more information contact Connie Lucius at (803) 545-4268 or send a request to cflucius@columbiasc.net. You can also visit our website at <https://columbiasc.gov/boards-commissions> to download an application.

###



For Immediate Release

March 6, 2015

Contact: Sara Hollar, Forestry and Beautification at 545-3860

SCE&G To Perform Tree Trimming Activities As Scheduled for 2015

SCE&G will perform tree trimming activities along overhead utility lines in the following neighborhoods for the next two weeks:

Arsenal Hill
 Elmwood Park
 Cottontown/Bellevue Historic District

The trimming will be completed by SCE&G contractors and work will be closely monitored on a daily basis by the City's 4 Certified Arborists from the Forestry and Beautification Division.

The purpose of the trimming activities is to increase safety and reliability of the electric service. SCE&G reports an 89% improvement in reliability in vegetation related outages in areas where trimming is completed compared to a year ago. The trimming guidelines include removing vegetation within 8-12 feet below and beside the power lines and up to 20 feet above the power lines.

SCE&G and their contractors trim in accordance with International Society of Arboriculture guidelines, using ANSI A300 pruning methods leaving good cuts that will generate new growth.

For more information about SCE&G's tree trimming efforts, including helpful tips and suggestions regarding the planting of trees and other vegetation, visit www.sceg.com/treetrimming.

You can also contact SCE&G's 24 hour Customer Service Center toll-free at 1-800-251-7234 or email SCEGContactUs@SCANA.com

For continued updates from the city of Columbia follow us on Twitter [@cityofcolumbia](https://twitter.com/cityofcolumbia) or "like" the [City of Columbia](https://www.facebook.com/cityofcolumbia) on Facebook.

#

Related Links:

[Tree Trimming Neighborhood Maps](#)

VIDEO: [Tree Trimming: Safety, Reliability and Healthy Trees](#)



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Friday, March 6, 2015

Contact: Erika Moore at 803-545-3043

City Council Agenda for March 10, 2015

Please note that City Council will conduct one meeting on Tuesday, March 10, 2015 at 10:00 a.m. Please note that there will not be a 6:00 p.m. Council Meeting.

Please review the attached agenda.

###



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

March 6, 2015

Contact: Michael Wukela, Office of the Mayor @ 803-413-5052

Mayor Benjamin releases statement following President's visit to Columbia

Columbia, SC – Columbia Mayor Steve Benjamin released the following statement today following President Barack Obama's visit to Columbia and town hall event at Benedict College:

"Hosting President Obama today, along with Attorney General Eric Holder, White House Senior Advisor Valerie Jarrett and Cabinet Secretary Broderick D. Johnson, was not only a great honor for all of Columbia but a once in a lifetime opportunity for members of our community to interact with and engage our nation's leaders in a very personal way. The impact that kind of opportunity has on all of us cannot be overstated.

"Today was about giving everyday Americans the chance to speak directly to their President. It was about celebrating all we have accomplished together and re-committing ourselves to finishing the work we've started especially when it comes to ensuring that all of our young people have the tools and support they need to live up to their God-given potential regardless of what obstacles may stand before them.

"That's what My Brother's Keeper is all about and as we continue to see more and more groups and individuals from the public and private sectors alike join this cause, we move that much closer to making this great vision a reality.

"Like President Obama, Columbia is wildly optimistic about the future and today we had plenty of reasons to celebrate."

To find out more about My Brother's Keeper Columbia, visit <http://columbiasc.net/mayor/get-involved>.

####

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Monday, March 9, 2015

Contact: Zoning Division at 803-545-3333

Board of Zoning Appeals Meeting Agenda

The Board of Zoning Appeals will conduct a meeting on Tuesday, March 10 at 10 a.m. The agenda is attached.

This agenda, past agendas and the approved minutes of previous meetings can also be found at <http://www.columbiasc.net/planning-boards-commissions/boza/agendas-minutes>.

###



We Are Columbia

Press Release

Public Relations, Marketing and Media Department

(P) 803-545-3020 | (F) 803-343-8719

pio@columbiasc.net | www.columbiasc.net

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Monday, March 9, 2015

Contact: Marli Drum at 803-776-PETS

Pet of the Week: Penny! (ID# A211468)

Penny is a four-year-old Calico domestic short hair cat. She is very relaxed and perfect for a laid back lifestyle. Penny is also spayed, microchipped and ready to take home!

Visit Penny and other pets available for adoption at the Columbia Animal Shelter, 127 Humane Lane. Visit www.columbiasc.net/animal-services or call 803-776-PETS for more information.

All of our pets need loving homes! To view other animals available for adoption, visit Petfinder.com. Please refer to the ID number listed above when visiting the website.

###

**Please see attached for photo.*

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Tuesday, March 9, 2015

Contact: Libby Gober at 803-545-3061

Councilwoman Tameika Isaac Devine to Host Open House

WHAT: City Councilwoman Tameika Isaac Devine will host her March Open House.

WHO: Councilwoman Tameika Isaac Devine

WHERE: City Hall, 1737 Main Street

WHEN: Wednesday, March 11, 2015 from 5 - 8 p.m.

For more information or to schedule an appointment, please call 803-545-3061.

###



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Monday, March 9, 2015

Contact: Shireese M. Bell at 803-760-9125 or smbell@columbiasc.net

Art Center to Offer Spring Break Art Camp

The Columbia Art Center is offering a 4-day multimedia visual art camp for children ages 6-12 from March 30-April 2.

The Spring Break Art Camp will include lessons on pottery, drawing and painting, and recycle art. **All materials are included in the registration fee of \$60.**

The camp will be held from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. Monday through Thursday at the Art Center, 1928 Calhoun Street.

The deadline to register is Sunday, March 15. The camp size is limited to a maximum of 12 participants.

To download a registration form, visit the [City of Columbia Parks and Recreation's Cultural Arts page online](#).

For more information, please call Brenda Oliver at 803-545-3093.

###

****Please see the attached flyer***

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Monday, March 9, 2015

Contact: Zoning Division at 803-545-3333

Design Development Review Commission Meeting Agenda

The Design Development Review Commission will conduct a meeting on Thursday, March 12 at 4 p.m. The agenda is attached.

This agenda, past agendas and the approved minutes of previous meetings can also be found at <http://www.columbiasc.net/planning-boards-commissions/ddrc/agendas-minutes>.

###

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Monday, March 9, 2015

Contact: Erika Moore at 803-545-3043

City Council Agenda for March 10, 2015

The Columbia City Council will conduct one meeting on Tuesday, March 10, 2015 at 10:00 a.m. Please be advised that City Council will enter into Executive Session at 12:15 p.m. and reconvene at 1 p.m. There will not be a 6 p.m. Council Meeting.

Please review the attached agenda.

###

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Monday, March 09, 2015

Contact: Shireese M. Bell at 803-760-9125 or smbell@columbiasc.net

City of Columbia Parks & Recreation to Hold Community Meeting on Owens Field Park Master Plan

WHAT: The City of Columbia Parks & Recreation Department invites the public to a community meeting on the master plan for Owens Field Park. The meeting is an opportunity for the community to view the proposed master plan for Owens Field Park.

WHERE: L.B. Owens Airport, 1400 Jim Hamilton Boulevard

WHEN: 6-8 p.m. Thursday, March 12, 2015

For more information, please call the City of Columbia Parks & Recreation Department at 803-545-3100.

###



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Monday, March 09, 2015

Contact: Shireese M. Bell at 803-760-9125 or smbell@columbiasc.net

City of Columbia Recognizes 5th Anniversary of National Let's Move! Initiative Let's Move! Gold Medalist Banner Ceremony to be held tomorrow at 9:30 a.m.

The City of Columbia will recognize the 5th anniversary of the national Let's Move! initiative during a special banner placement on Tuesday, March 10, 2015.

As part of the 5th anniversary of the national Let's Move initiative, First Lady Michelle Obama announced a new challenge asking everyone to [#GimmeFive](#) (Give Me Five) things they're doing to live a healthy life. Social media users were asked to share a video with what they're doing to be healthy, whether it's eating five fruits and vegetables or doing five pushups.

City officials will kick off the challenge during a special banner placement of the city's Let's Move! Gold Medalist banner from the National League of Cities. Columbia City Council was presented with the Let's Move! Gold Medalist banner in February after the City was recognized for achieving gold medals in all **five** Let's Move! Cities, Towns and Towns and Counties (LMCTC) goal areas—the highest distinction a community can receive.

The five goal areas are:

- **Goal I:** *Start Early, Start Smart*
- **Goal II:** *My Plate, Your Place*
- **Goal III:** *Smart Servings for Students*
- **Goal IV:** *Model Food Service*
- **Goal V:** *Active Kids at Play*

The City is joining the challenge and encouraging everyone to share five ways they're eating better, being more active and leading a healthier life. Citizens are encouraged to upload a video or photo to their social media accounts and use the hashtags #GimmeFiveColumbiaSC, #GimmeFive and #LetsMoveColumbia. Then pass on the challenge by asking friends and family to #GimmeFive more ways they're living a healthier life.

WHAT: The City of Columbia will recognize the 5th anniversary of the national Let's Move! initiative.

WHERE: City Hall, 1737 Main Street; The banner will hang on the Laurel Street side.

WHEN: 9:30 a.m. Tuesday, March 10, 2015

For more information, please call Shireese M. Bell at 803-760-9125 or email smbell@columbiasc.net.

###



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Monday, March 10, 2015

Contact: Shireese M. Bell at 803-760-9125 or smbell@columbiasc.net

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WHERE: City Hall, 1737 Main Street; The banner will hang on the Laurel Street side.

WHEN: 9:30 a.m. Tuesday, March 10, 2015

For more information, please call Shireese M. Bell at 803-760-9125 or email smbell@columbiasc.net.

###



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Tuesday, March 10, 2015

Contact: Shireese M. Bell at 803-760-9125 or smbell@columbiasc.net

City of Columbia Celebrates 5th Anniversary of National Let's Move! Initiative

The City of Columbia celebrated the 5th anniversary of the national Let's Move! initiative during a special banner placement ceremony on Tuesday, March 10, 2015.

Starting today, the City's Let's Move! Gold Medalist banner is displayed outside of City Hall on Laurel Street. The City was recognized by the National League of Cities for achieving gold medals in all **five** Let's Move! Cities, Towns and Towns and Counties (LMCTC) goal areas—the highest distinction a community can receive.

The City is also joining First Lady Michelle Obama's #GimmeFive challenge, which was started in honor of the 5th anniversary, in encouraging everyone to share five ways they're leading a healthier life, whether it's eating five fruits and vegetables or doing five pushups.

Citizens are encouraged to upload a video or photo to their social media accounts and use the hashtags #GimmeFiveColumbiaSC, #GimmeFive and #LetsMoveColumbia. Then pass on the challenge by asking friends and family to #GimmeFive more ways they're living a healthier life.

###

****Please see the attached photo***

Photo: (L-R) Wanda Austin, Let's Move! Columbia coordinator; Councilwoman Tameika Isaac Devine; Mayor Steve Benjamin; Councilwoman Leona Plough; Councilman Moe Baddourah; and City Manager Teresa Wilson

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Tuesday, March 10, 2015

Contact: Public Relations, Marketing and Media at 803-545-3020

Google to Bring Let's Put Our Cities on the Map program to City of Columbia

Google, in partnership with Mayor Steve Benjamin and the Office of Business Opportunities, is bringing its *Let's Put Our Cities on the Map* program to Columbia with the Get Your Business Online workshop on Thursday, March 19, 2015 from 9 a.m.-12 p.m. at 701 Whaley Street. Small businesses in the Columbia area are invited to attend. Registration is required and limited.

"Roughly 40 percent of small businesses in South Carolina do not have a website even though 97 percent of consumers look online for local products and services," said Mayor Benjamin. "By partnering with Google to host this event, we're helping bridge that gap and get our small businesses online because that's where their customers are."

Let's Put Our Cities on the Map is Google's program to harness the support of local leaders, business organizations and citizens to help every business get online with one simple mission: to help local businesses be found on the web, on maps and on mobile phones. Small businesses that attend this workshop will get a free website for a year in addition to free tools, training and resources to help their businesses succeed online.

To register, click [here](#).

For more information, contact the Public Relations, Marketing and Media at 803-545-3020.

###



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Tuesday, March 10, 2015

Contact: Shireese M. Bell at 803-760-9125 or smbell@columbiasc.net

Active Adults Olympic Games

The City of Columbia Parks and Recreation Department is sponsoring the Active Adults Olympic Games for adults age 50 and older.

Bring your friends and family, and show off your athletic skills during this five-day competition.

The Active Adults Olympic Games will be held Monday, May 18, 2015 through Friday, May 22, 2015. Competitions will be held in the evenings. Times and locations will vary. Olympic-style medals will be awarded.

Competitive events will feature a variety of activities including basketball, billiards, disc golf, swimming, horseshoes, track, tennis and more.

Schedule of Olympic Events

Monday 18, 2015	May	Tuesday May 19, 2015	Wednesday May 20, 2015	Thursday May 21, 2015	Friday May 22, 2015
OWENS FIELD 1351 Jim Hamilton Boulevard		JAMES E. CLYBURN GOLF CENTER 2091 Slighs Avenue	GREENVIEW PARK 6700 David Street	MAXCY GREGG POOL 1655 Park Circle	GREENVIEW PARK 6700 David Street
Disc Golf 6:30pm		Longest Drive 6:00pm	Ping Pong 6:30pm	Horseshoes 6:00pm	Basketball: Free Throw, 6:00pm
Track & Field: Long Jump 6:30pm		Closet to the Pin (120 yards) 6:30pm	Tennis: Singles 6:00pm	Swimming: Freestyle 6:00pm	3 on 3 6:30pm
40-yard Dash 7:00pm		Putting 7:00pm	Doubles 7:00pm	Back Stroke 6:30pm	End of Games Cookout 7:00pm
100-yard Dash 7:30pm			Mixed Doubles 7:30pm	Breast Stroke 7:00pm	
Softball Throw 7:45pm					

The fee to register is \$20 per participant which includes a souvenir bag, two wristbands for a cookout to be held at the end of the competition and a T-shirt. There is a \$5 fee for each additional wristband for the cookout.

Participants must register by May 1, 2015. Registration forms are available at the following locations:

- [City recreation centers](#)
- Parks and Recreation Administration Office, 1111 Parkside Drive, Columbia, SC 29203
- Online at Parks and Recreation Department's "[Senior Programs Events](#)" page

For more information, please contact the City of Columbia Parks and Recreation Department at 803-545-3100 or email kcmitchell@columbiasc.net.

###

****Please see the attached flyer and registration form***



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Tuesday, March 10, 2015

Contact: Shireese M. Bell at 803-760-9125 or smbell@columbiasc.net

Mayor Steve Benjamin and the City of Columbia to Host Let's Move! Easter Egg Hunt

WHAT: Mayor Steve Benjamin and family along with the City of Columbia will host the annual Let's Move! Easter Egg Hunt. The event is free and open to the public. The event will include "Eggs"ercises, an Easter Egg Hunt, face painting, exhibitors, refreshments and more!

WHO: Mayor Steve Benjamin, Judge DeAndrea Benjamin, Bethany and Jordan Grace Benjamin

WHERE: Finlay Park, 930 Laurel Street

WHEN: 1-3 p.m. Friday, April 3, 2015

For more information, please call the City of Columbia Parks & Recreation Department at 803-545-3100 or email kcmitchell@columbiasc.net.

###



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Thursday, March 12, 2015

Contact: Public Relations, Marketing and Media at 803-545-3020

City of Columbia Invites HomeServe USA to Offer Water Service Line Coverage to Customers *Third Municipal Agency in South Carolina to Partner with HomeServe*

Over the next few days, City of Columbia drinking water customers will receive letters announcing a new optional coverage program to repair their exterior water and sewer service lines in the event of a line break or leak. The City invited HomeServe USA to offer this coverage.

While the City maintains water mains and service lines up to the water meter and the water meter itself, property owners are responsible for service lines from the meter to the property's plumbing. The City maintains sewer lines up to the property boundary; sewer service lines on private property are the owner's responsibility.

"The City of Columbia wants its customers to be prepared and have respected and qualified service in the case of emergency with both the exterior water and sewer lines," says City Manager Teresa Wilson in a letter to City water customers.

[HomeServe USA](#) (HomeServe), a leading provider of home emergency repair service plans, is partnering with the City of Columbia to offer optional service plans for exterior water and sewer lines and in-home plumbing repairs to the City's residential homeowners. Columbia joins the Charleston Water System and Beaufort-Jasper Water & Sewer Authority in selecting HomeServe as the provider of these optional service programs for local residents.

HomeServe plan holders in Columbia have access to a Repair Hotline that is accessible 24 hours a day, 365 days a year, and local, licensed, and insured contractors that will be dispatched to their home for repairs. The Water Service Line Coverage is available for a \$4.99 monthly fee, while the Sewer/Septic Line

coverage is \$8.99 per month and the Interior Plumbing and Drainage System Coverage is \$9.99 monthly.

"HomeServe is working closely with the City of Columbia to deliver the highest level of service and value for customers," said Tom Rusin, CEO of HomeServe USA.

"Columbia marks the third municipality HomeServe has partnered with in South Carolina, and we are growing our customer base and expanding our network of qualified contractors across the state."

Columbia residents will receive information in the mail with additional details about these optional plans starting this week. Homeowners can also visit ColumbiaServicePlans.com or call 877-863-1411 for more information.

###



For Immediate Release

March 13, 2015

Contact: Connie Lucius at (803) 545-4268

Advertisement of Vacancies for the City of Columbia Boards & Commissions

The City of Columbia is seeking persons to serve on a variety of boards and commissions. Participation is another way city residents can take part in their government. Below is a list of boards and commissions that currently have vacancies.

Bicycle Pedestrian Advisory Committee (BPAC)

Seeking one (1) District 1 Applicant.

The purpose of BPAC is to advise the Mayor and City Council Members, the City of Columbia transportation planning staff; community organizations; and partners on bicycling and pedestrian issues facing the city; to work toward development of bicycle/pedestrian master plan; to represent community and constituent interests in transportation planning decisions; and to provide feedback to staff on projects relating to walking and bicycling. Current appointees need to re-apply for consideration. Term – 2 years.

Citizens Advisory Committee for Community Development

Seeking one (1) Applicant from District 3 for Re-Appointment/Appointment.

The purpose of this committee is to make important recommendations for the use of Community Development Block Grant (CDBG), Housing Opportunities for Persons with Aids (HOPWA), and Columbia Assisting Neighborhood Development Opportunities (CANDO) funds, advises the Mayor and Council on the needs of neighborhoods, reviews amendments and makes appropriate comments on policies. Term – 4 years.

Columbia Tree and Appearance Commission

Seeking three (3) Applicants for Re-Appointment/Appointment. Two (2) Applicants are considered At-Large and one (1) Applicant must be in the Landscape Architect/Horticulturist/Arborist field.

The purpose of this commission is to protect, enhance and promote the City of Columbia's natural resources and visual beauty. They oversee the development of a master plan for the beautification of the City of Columbia and its implementation. Term – 2 years.

Commercial Revolving Loan Fund

Seeking three (3) Applicants for Re-Appointment/Appointment. Two (2) Applicants must be a Small Business Owner and one (1) an Attorney.

Review and approve/disapprove applications for loans from the City of Columbia Commercial Revolving Loan Program. Term – 2 years.

Midlands Authority for Conventions, Sports and Tourism

Seeking one (1) Applicant for Re-Appointment/Appointment.

The mission of the Midlands Authority for Conventions Sports and Tourism includes: directing and managing the activities and mission of the Columbia Metropolitan Convention and Visitors Bureau, the Columbia Regional Sports Council and the Columbia Regional Visitors Center; and overseeing the development and operation of the Columbia Metropolitan Convention Center under a long-term management agreement for the benefit of the Governmental Entities: City of Columbia, Lexington County and Richland County. Term – 5 years.

Parks and Recreation Foundation

Seeking four (4) Applicants.

Columbia Parks and Recreation Foundation enhances the leisure service opportunities in the City of Columbia by improving the scope and quality of educational and human development programs. It encourages, recruits, receives, and administers gifts, devises, and donations by deed, will or otherwise, for the advancement of the City of Columbia Parks & Recreation Department. Term – 3 years.

Planning Commission

Seeking two (2) Applicants for Re-Appointment/Appointment.

The purpose of this commission is to develop and maintain a continuing planning program which will benefit City of Columbia residents; to provide a mutual forum to identify, discuss, study and address local development issues and opportunities; to foster, develop and review policies, plans and priorities in order to insure orderly growth, development, conservation and preservation; to furnish technical assistance to city government and its agents; and to review and coordinate federal, state and local programs that have an impact on the city. The Commission also advises City Council on annexations, zoning changes and approves subdivision plats/large development plans.

Term – 3 years.

Property Maintenance Board of Adjustment and Appeals

Seeking seven (7) Applicants for Appointment/Re-Appointment who are qualified by experience and training (i.e. architect, contractor, engineer, property manager) to pass on matters pertaining to property maintenance.

The purpose of the Property Maintenance Board of Adjustment and Appeals is to hear appeals of notices or decisions issued under the International Property Maintenance Code. Term – 3 years.

Richland County Board of Assessment Appeals

Seeking one (1) Applicant for Re-Appointment/Appointment.

The Board of Assessment Appeals purpose is to equalize the value of the real and personal property of Richland County and to hear all grievances and appeals from the valuation and assessments by the Assessor. Term – 3 years.

Deadline – Applications are due no later than April 10, 2015, 5 p.m.

For applications and more information contact Connie Lucius at (803) 545-4268 or send a request to cflucius@columbiasc.net. You can also visit our website at <https://columbiasc.gov/boards-commissions> to download an application.

###



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Friday, March 13, 2015

Contact: Shireese M. Bell at 803-760-9125 or smbell@columbiasc.net

Art Center to Offer Spring Break Art Camp

The Columbia Art Center is offering a 4-day multimedia visual art camp for children ages 6-12 from March 30-April 2.

The Spring Break Art Camp will include lessons on pottery, drawing and painting, and recycle art. **All materials are included in the registration fee of \$60.**

The camp will be held from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. Monday through Thursday at the Art Center, 1928 Calhoun Street.

The deadline to register is Sunday, March 15. The camp size is limited to a maximum of 12 participants.

To download a registration form, visit the [City of Columbia Parks and Recreation's Cultural Arts page online](#).

For more information, please call Brenda Oliver at 803-545-3093.

###

****Please see the attached flyer***



For Immediate Release

March 13, 2015

Contact: Sara Hollar, Forestry and Beautification at 545-3860

SCE&G To Perform Tree Trimming Activities As Scheduled for 2015

SCE&G will perform tree trimming activities along overhead utility lines in the following neighborhoods for the next two weeks:

Arsenal Hill
 Elmwood Park
 Cottontown/Bellevue Historic District

The trimming will be completed by SCE&G contractors and work will be closely monitored on a daily basis by the City's 4 Certified Arborists from the Forestry and Beautification Division.

The purpose of the trimming activities is to increase safety and reliability of the electric service. SCE&G reports an 89% improvement in reliability in vegetation related outages in areas where trimming is completed compared to a year ago. The trimming guidelines include removing vegetation within 8-12 feet below and beside the power lines and up to 20 feet above the power lines.

SCE&G and their contractors trim in accordance with International Society of Arboriculture guidelines, using ANSI A300 pruning methods leaving good cuts that will generate new growth.

For more information about SCE&G's tree trimming efforts, including helpful tips and suggestions regarding the planting of trees and other vegetation, visit www.sceg.com/treetrimming.

You can also contact SCE&G's 24 hour Customer Service Center toll-free at 1-800-251-7234 or email SCEGContactUs@SCANA.com

For continued updates from the city of Columbia follow us on Twitter [@cityofcolumbia](#) or “like” the [City of Columbia](#) on Facebook.

#

Related Links:

[Tree Trimming Neighborhood Maps](#)

VIDEO: [Tree Trimming: Safety, Reliability and Healthy Trees](#)

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Monday, March 16, 2015

Contact: Contact: Erika Moore at 803-545-3043

City Council Meeting Agendas

The Columbia City Council will conduct a work session, council meeting/public hearing and zoning public hearing on Tuesday, March 17, 2015. The agendas are attached for your review.

###



We Are Columbia

Press Release

Public Relations, Marketing and Media Department

(P) 805-545-3020 | (F) 803-343-8719

pio@columbiasc.net | www.columbiasc.net

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Monday, March 16, 2015

Contact: Marli Drum at 803-776-PETS

Pet of the Week: Hover! (ID# A211683)

Hover is a one-year-old Bull Terrier mix. He is very loyal and extremely obedient. Hover is perfect for owners who exercise a lot. He is also neutered and microchipped.

Columbia Animal Shelter will be offering cats and dogs for \$17 on March 17, 2015. The adoption fee includes spay/neuter, microchip, Feline Leukemia/Heartworm Test, initial vaccines and deworming.

Visit Hover and other pets available for adoption at the Columbia Animal Shelter, 127 Humane Lane. Visit www.columbiasc.net/animal-services or call 803-776-PETS for more information.

All of our pets need loving homes! To view other animals available for adoption, visit Petfinder.com. Please refer to the ID number listed above when visiting the website.

###

**Please see attached for photo and flyer.*



For Immediate Release

March 16, 2015

Contact: Connie Lucius at (803) 545-4268

Advertisement of Vacancies for the City of Columbia's Design/Development Review Commission

The City of Columbia is seeking persons to serve on Design/Development Review Commission. Participation is another way city residents can take part in the functioning of their government.

Design/Development Review Commission

Seeking three (3) Applicants for Appointment. Individuals must represent the following: an Architect, a Realtor and a Community Representative.

The purpose of the Design/Development Review Commission (DDRC) is to review and approve work proposed within the City's historic districts, urban design areas, and upon designated landmarks. Term – 3 years.

All applicants must reside within Columbia city limits.

Deadline – Applications are due no later than Friday, March 27, 2015, 5 p.m.

For applications and more information contact Connie Lucius at (803) 545-4268 or send a request to cflucius@columbiasc.net. You can also visit our website at <http://www.columbiasc.net/boards-commissions> to download an application.

###

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Monday, March 16, 2015

Contact: Office of Business Opportunities at 803-545-3950

The City's Office of Business Opportunities is Accepting Nominations for its Quarterly Business Spotlight Award

Do you know of or own a business that has created an innovative product, service or system? Nominate it for the Office of Business Opportunities' Business Spotlight Award.

Eligible businesses must be located within the city of Columbia and be privately owned with a minimum of two consecutive years of operation. All applicants should be in good standing with the Secretary of State's Office, the Better Business Bureau and be current on their City/County taxes, business license and water/sewer fees.

Click [here](#) to download the application.

The deadline to nominate a business is **Tuesday, April 7, 2015 at 5 p.m.** The winner will be announced during the Annual Small Business Week Conference on Tuesday, May 5, 2015.

For more information, contact the Office of Business Opportunities at 803-545-3950 or ColumbiaSC.net/OBO.

###



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Monday, March 16, 2015

Contact: Shireese M. Bell at 803-760-9125 or smbell@columbiasc.net

City of Columbia's Annual National Youth Violence Prevention Week Begins Monday

The City of Columbia's annual National Youth Violence Prevention Week (NYVPW) will begin Monday, March 23, 2015 with a Violence Prevention Expo at Hyatt Park, 950 Jackson Avenue from 6-8 p.m.

National Youth Violence Prevention Week is held in order to raise awareness and educate students, teachers, school administrators and staff, school resource officers, parents and the public on effective ways to prevent and reduce youth violence. Councilwoman Tameika Isaac Devine initiated the City's involvement with National Youth Violence Prevention Week.

Various planned activities will demonstrate the positive role young people can have in making their schools and communities safer. **All events are free and open to the public.** Youth, adults, parents, mentors and youth leaders are encouraged to attend.

Schedule of Events

Monday, March 23, 2015

Violence Prevention Expo

Hyatt Park, 950 Jackson Avenue
6-8 p.m.

Agencies and organizations will be on hand to provide information on a variety of programs, resources, activities and events that will assist youth in making better life choices.

Tuesday, March 24, 2015

Protecting Our Children

Martin Luther King, Jr. Park, 2300 Greene Street

6-8 p.m.

There will be seminars on bullying, gangs and sexual assault.

Wednesday, March 25, 2015

"The Insiders" – South Carolina Department of Juvenile Justice

Charles R. Drew Wellness Center, 2101 Walker Solomon Way

6-8 p.m.

"The Insiders" is a special group of juveniles who travel throughout the state encouraging troubled children and promoting community awareness of the prevalence and consequences of juvenile crime.

Thursday, March 26, 2015

The Aftermath of Youth Violence

City Hall, 1737 Main Street

6-8 p.m.

A panel discussion for youth and adults to ask questions about the effects that youth violence has had on their lives and families.

Friday, March 27, 2015

Game Night: A Night of Non-Violence

Greenview Park, 6700 David Street; Hyatt Park, 950 Jackson Avenue; King Park, 2300 Greene Street; Pinehurst Park, 2300 Pinehurst Park; and Lorick Park, 1600 Lorick Avenue

6-10 p.m.

City community centers will operate on extended hours of "play" so that our youth may engage in positive activities.

For more information or if you would like to be an exhibitor, please call the City's Parks and Recreation Department at 803-545-3100 or visit www.columbiasc.net.

###

****Please see the attached flyer***



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Monday, March 16, 2015

Contact: Contact: Erika Moore at 803-545-3043

Updated City Council Meeting Agendas

The Columbia City Council will conduct a work session, council meeting/public hearing and zoning public hearing on Tuesday, March 17, 2015. The updated agendas are attached for your review.

###

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Tuesday, March 17, 2015

Contact: Marli Drum at 803-776-PETS

Columbia Animal Services to Offer Adoption Special on St. Patrick's Day

What: Cats and dogs at the Columbia Animal Shelter will be offered for \$17 on March 17, 2015. The adoption fee includes spay/neuter, microchip, Feline Leukemia/Heartworm Test, initial vaccines and deworming.

When: March 17, 2015

Where: Animal Services, 127 Humane Lane, Columbia, South Carolina 29209

For more information, contact Marli Drum at 803-776-PETS or visit ColumbiaSC.net.

###

**see flyer attached*

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Tuesday, March 17, 2015

Contact: Public Relations @ 803-545-3020

City and SCDOT Officials To Assemble on March 18

Who: City Council, City Staff and SCDOT Commissioners

What: Pursuant to the South Carolina Freedom of Information Act, Section 30-4-30, notice is hereby given that the COLUMBIA CVB will host the CITY OF COLUMBIA and the SC DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION.

At the time this notice is being prepared, the City of Columbia expects to provide updates about the following projects: Bull Street, Consolidated Community Plan, Land Use Plan, Utilities Attached to Bridges, SCDOT Roads Conveyed to Local Governments, and Corridors and Streetscaping.

When: March 18, 2015 at 6:00 p.m.

Where: Cola's Restaurant, 1215 Assembly Street, Columbia, South Carolina.

###



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Tuesday, March 17, 2015

Contact: Public Relations, Marketing and Media at 803-545-3020

Google to Bring Let's Put Our Cities on the Map program to City of Columbia

Google, in partnership with Mayor Steve Benjamin and the Office of Business Opportunities, is bringing its *Let's Put Our Cities on the Map* program to Columbia with the Get Your Business Online workshop on Thursday, March 19, 2015 from 9 a.m.-12 p.m. at 701 Whaley Street. Small businesses in the Columbia area are invited to attend. Registration is required and limited.

"Roughly 40 percent of small businesses in South Carolina do not have a website even though 97 percent of consumers look online for local products and services," said Mayor Benjamin. "By partnering with Google to host this event, we're helping bridge that gap and get our small businesses online because that's where their customers are."

Let's Put Our Cities on the Map is Google's program to harness the support of local leaders, business organizations and citizens to help every business get online with one simple mission: to help local businesses be found on the web, on maps and on mobile phones. Small businesses that attend this workshop will get a free website for a year in addition to free tools, training and resources to help their businesses succeed online.

To register, click [here](#).

For more information, contact the Public Relations, Marketing and Media at 803-545-3020.

###

Contact: Shireese M. Bell at 803-760-9125 or smbell@columbiasc.net

Competitive events will feature a variety of activities including basketball, billiards, disc golf, swimming, horseshoes, track, tennis and more.

Monday 18, 2015	May	Tuesday May 19, 2015	Wednesday 20, 2015	May	Thursday 21, 2015	May	Friday 22, 2015	May
OWENS FIELD 1351 Jim Hamilton Boulevard		JAMES E. CLYBURN GOLF CENTER 2091 Slighs Avenue			MAXCY GREGG POOL 1655 Park Circle		GREENVIEW PARK 6700 David Street	
Disc Golf	6:30pm	Longest Drive		Ping Pong	6:30pm	Horseshoes	6:00pm	Basketball: Free Throw,
		6:00pm		Billiards	7:00pm	Bocce Ball	6:00pm	6:00pm
Track & Field:				Tennis:		Swimming:		3 on 3
Long Jump	6:30pm	Closet to the Pin (120 yards)		Singles	6:00pm	Freestyle	6:00pm	6:30pm
		6:30pm		Doubles	7:00pm	Back Stroke	6:30pm	End of Games
40-yard Dash	7:00pm	Putting	7:00pm	Mixed Doubles	7:30pm	Breast Stroke	7:00pm	Cookout
100-yard Dash	7:30pm							
Softball Throw	7:45pm							

The fee to register is \$20 per participant which includes a souvenir bag, two wristbands for a cookout to be held at the end of the competition and a T-shirt. There is a \$5 fee for each additional wristband for the cookout.

Participants must register by May 1, 2015. Registration forms are available at the following locations:

- [City recreation centers](#)
- Parks and Recreation Administration Office, 1111 Parkside Drive, Columbia, SC 29203
- Online at Parks and Recreation Department's "[Senior Programs Events](#)" page

For more information, please contact the City of Columbia Parks and Recreation Department at 803-545-3100 or email kcmitchell@columbiasc.net.

###

****Please see the attached flyer and registration form***

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Wednesday, March 18, 2015

Contact: Ron King at (803) 545-0280

Community Development to Hold Start Fresh Financial Education Workshop

WHAT: Learn the importance of banking, budgeting, saving and building your credit at City of Columbia's Community Development Financial Education Workshop.

WHERE: Richland Library, 1431 Assembly Street, Columbia, SC

WHEN: Saturday, March 21, 2015 from 10 a.m.- 12:30 p.m.

For more information or to register, call 803.545.0280 or visit www.columbiasc.net.

###

****Please see attached flyer***

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Wednesday, March 18, 2015

Contact: Shireese M. Bell at 803-760-9125 or smbell@columbiasc.net

The Real Women Workshop Postponed

The Real Women Workshop scheduled for Saturday, March 28 at Greenview Park has been postponed.

The workshop will be rescheduled for a later date.

###



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Wednesday, March 18, 2015

Contact: Shireese M. Bell at 803-760-9125 or smbell@columbiasc.net

City of Columbia Parks and Recreation Department to Host Baseball and Softball Expo

The City of Columbia Parks and Recreation Department will host a Baseball and Softball Expo for children ages 4-14 on Saturday, March 21 at Hyatt Park, 950 Jackson Avenue.

The expo, which will be held from 12-4 p.m., will feature games, youth and coaches clinics, entertainment and more. The expo is also an opportunity for parents to register their child for the City's youth baseball, girls softball and City Sluggers programs.

Youth baseball and girls softball is open to boys and girls ages 9-14. **City Sluggers**, the department's instructional youth baseball program, is open for boys and girls ages 4-8.

The **City Sluggers** program is an opportunity for youth to have fun and learn baseball fundamentals. [Children ages 4-6 (T-ball) and children ages 7 and 8 (Coaches Pitch)].

The fee to participate in each program is \$25 per person. Scholarships are available for those who qualify. **The last day to register is Saturday, March 21, 2015.** League play begins April 6, 2015.

To download a registration form, [click here](#).

Registration forms are also available at any [City recreation center](#) or at the Parks and Recreation Administration Office located at 1111 Parkside Drive, Columbia, SC 29203.

Volunteer coaches are needed for this year's baseball and softball program.

For more information about becoming a coach or the Baseball and Softball Expo, please call the Parks & Recreation Department at 803-545-3100.

###



For Immediate Release

March 18, 2015

Contact: Michael Wukela, Office of the Mayor @ 803-413-5052

Mayor Benjamin announces My Brother's Keeper Columbia Advisory Board

Columbia, South Carolina – The City of Columbia announced today the members of the My Brother's Keeper (MBK) Advisory Board, who will determine the scalability of all proposed MBK programs in the city, create criteria for the "MBK Columbia" designation and determine how and which organizations will be eligible for grant funding and technical support.

The board members are:

Dr. John Dozier, chief diversity officer at the University of South Carolina

Tommy Preston, attorney at Nexsen Pruet and National President of the Bill and Melinda Gates Millennium Scholars Alumni Association

Anita Floyd, senior vice president for Community Impact and Strategic Implementation at United Way of the Midlands

Rev. Aaron Bishop, Member of Richland School District One School Board

Chip Jackson, Chair of Richland School District Two School Board

Dr. Anna Scheyett, Dean of the University of South Carolina's College of Social Work

Dr. Stuart Hamilton, Eau Claire Cooperative Health

Ted Creech, AT&T South Carolina & Chair of Policy Committee of the Greater Columbia Chamber of Commerce

Julie Smithwick, Executive Director of SC PASOs

Dr. Tanya Smith Brice, Dean of Benedict College's School of Education, Health, and Human Services

"The creation of the advisory board is the next step in our efforts to creating a true My Brother's Keeper community in Columbia," said Mayor Benjamin. "The leaders on this board are highly-motivated, well-qualified and eager to create the community we're seeking."

Tommy Preston and John Dozier will serve as co-chairs for the effort. There will also be two ex-officio youth members appointed to the advisory board. In addition to the creation of the advisory board, there is an effort to recognize organizations that are doing work related to MBK. Columbia's major focus will be on the first two tenets of the national MBK goals: ensuring all children enter school cognitively, physically, socially and emotionally ready and ensuring all children read at grade level by 3rd grade. However, all six goals' implementation is encouraged.

Organizations that are involved in work that speaks to the goals of My Brother's Keeper goals are encouraged to share their participation by submitting the form found on bit.ly/mbkcola.

Chairman Chip Jackson of Richland Two, said, "MBK efforts have been a part of what we do in Richland Two, but we are now able to formally put a name to them."

For information, contact Sam Johnson at spjohnson@columbiasc.net.

###

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Thursday, March 19, 2015

Contact: Office of Business Opportunities at 803-545-3950

Commercial Revolving Loan Fund Committee Meeting Agenda

The Commercial Revolving Loan Fund Committee will conduct a meeting on Wednesday, March 25, 2015 at 10 a.m. The agenda is attached for your review.

###

**For Immediate Release**

March 20, 2015

Contact: Public Relations, Marketing and Media @ 545-3020

Lights Out for #EarthHour in the City of Columbia

On Saturday March 28, 2015 at 8:30pm, the City of Columbia will join hundreds of millions of other cities, businesses and organizations across the globe in switching off all nonessential lights in City buildings for one hour – Earth Hour, the world’s largest public environmental action. By taking part in this global event the City will be acknowledging its commitment to personal and operational actions that benefit the planet in the year ahead.

The City of Columbia has taken steps to go beyond Earth Hour by reducing greenhouse gas emissions and increasing energy efficiency, including establishing the Climate Protection Action Campaign (CPAC), retrofitting light fixtures in all City facilities and planting trees via the 10,000 Trees program.

The City is encouraging citizens to also participate in Earth Hour by turning off lights, and unplugging appliances using electricity for one hour between 8:30 and 9:30 p.m. and by encouraging their neighbors, local businesses and organizations to join in the effort to increase energy conservation.

###

About Earth Hour:

Earth Hour began as a single-city initiative – in Sydney, Australia – in 2007 and has since grown into a global movement with hundreds of millions of people from more than 7,000 cities and towns in 152 countries/territories across every continent switching off their lights for Earth Hour, creating history as the world's greatest ever environmental action.

[Earth Hour Website](#)



Jared D. Glover, Sr. Public Relations Specialist

Public Relations, Marketing & Media
1737 Main Street, Columbia, SC 29201
Phone: 803-545-3013
Fax: 803-343-8719
ColumbiaSC.net



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

March 20, 2015

Contact: Public Relations at 803-545-3020

**The City of Columbia's 1st Go Red Fashion Show
Set to Hit the Runway Today**

The City of Columbia will host the first Go Red Fashion Show today, March 20, 2015 at 6.p.m. Local citizens can help honor and support those affected by heart disease, the #1 killer of women, at the Go Red Fashion Show. Proceeds will benefit the American Heart Association. Tickets cost \$25 and can be purchased at the door this evening.

Councilwoman Tameika Isaac Devine is the host for this event. The fashion show will feature celebrity models, a "City Kids" segment and attire from local retail sponsors. The grand finale will feature fashions by Sergio Hudson, a nationally renowned designer and winner of "Styled to Rock".

The event will be held at the Columbia Metropolitan Convention Center, 1101 Lincoln Street.

For more information visit columbiasc.net or call Public Relations at 803-545-3020.

###



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Friday, March 20, 2015

Contact: Shireese M. Bell at 803-760-9125 or smbell@columbiasc.net

City of Columbia Parks and Recreation Department to Host Baseball and Softball Expo Saturday

The City of Columbia Parks and Recreation Department will host a Baseball and Softball Expo for children ages 4-14 on **Saturday, March 21** at Hyatt Park, 950 Jackson Avenue.

The expo, which will be held from 12-4 p.m., will feature games, youth and coaches clinics, entertainment and more. The expo is also an opportunity for parents to register their child for the City's youth baseball, girls softball and City Sluggers programs.

Youth baseball and girls softball is open to boys and girls ages 9-14. **City Sluggers**, the department's instructional youth baseball program, is open for boys and girls ages 4-8.

The **City Sluggers** program is an opportunity for youth to have fun and learn baseball fundamentals. [Children ages 4-6 (T-ball) and children ages 7 and 8 (Coaches Pitch)].

The fee to participate in each program is \$25 per person. Scholarships are available for those who qualify. **The last day to register is Saturday, March 21, 2015.** League play begins April 6, 2015.

To download a registration form, [click here](#).

Registration forms are also available at any [City recreation center](#) or at the Parks and Recreation Administration Office located at 1111 Parkside Drive, Columbia, SC 29203.

Volunteer coaches are needed for this year's baseball and softball program.

For more information about becoming a coach or the Baseball and Softball Expo, please call the Parks & Recreation Department at 803-545-3100.

###

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Monday, March 23, 2015

Contact: Contact: Erika Moore at 803-545-3043

City Council Committee Agendas for March 24, 2015

Columbia City Council will conduct committee meetings on Tuesday, March 24, 2015 at the times below. The agendas are attached for your review.

- **Environment and Infrastructure Committee Meeting at 9 a.m.**
- **Administrative Policy Committee Meeting at 11 a.m.**
- **Economic and Community Development Committee Meeting at 2 p.m.**

###



We Are Columbia

Press Release

Public Relations, Marketing and Media Department

(P) 805-545-3020 | (F) 803-343-8719

pio@columbiasc.net | www.columbiasc.net

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Monday, March 23, 2015

Contact: Marli Drum at 803-776-PETS

Pet of the Week: Garfield! (ID# A212872)

Garfield is a one-year-old domestic long hair cat. He is very playful and kid-friendly. Garfield is also neutered and microchipped.

Visit Garfield and other pets available for adoption at the Columbia Animal Shelter, 127 Humane Lane. Visit www.columbiasc.net/animal-services or call 803-776-PETS for more information.

All of our pets need loving homes! To view other animals available for adoption, visit Petfinder.com. Please refer to the ID number listed above when visiting the website.

###

**Please see attached for photo.*



For Immediate Release

March 23, 2015

Contact: Sara Hollar, Forestry and Beautification at 545-3860

SCE&G To Perform Tree Trimming Activities As Scheduled for 2015

SCE&G will perform tree trimming activities along overhead utility lines in the following neighborhoods for the next two weeks:

Arsenal Hill
 Elmwood Park
 Cottontown/Bellevue Historic District

The trimming will be completed by SCE&G contractors and work will be closely monitored on a daily basis by the City's 4 Certified Arborists from the Forestry and Beautification Division.

The purpose of the trimming activities is to increase safety and reliability of the electric service. SCE&G reports an 89% improvement in reliability in vegetation related outages in areas where trimming is completed compared to a year ago. The trimming guidelines include removing vegetation within 8-12 feet below and beside the power lines and up to 20 feet above the power lines.

SCE&G and their contractors trim in accordance with International Society of Arboriculture guidelines, using ANSI A300 pruning methods leaving good cuts that will generate new growth.

For more information about SCE&G's tree trimming efforts, including helpful tips and suggestions regarding the planting of trees and other vegetation, visit www.sceg.com/treetrimming.

You can also contact SCE&G's 24 hour Customer Service Center toll-free at 1-800-251-7234 or email SCEGContactUs@SCANA.com

For continued updates from the city of Columbia follow us on Twitter [@cityofcolumbia](#) or “like” the [City of Columbia](#) on Facebook.

#

Related Links:

[Tree Trimming Neighborhood Maps](#)

VIDEO: [Tree Trimming: Safety, Reliability and Healthy Trees](#)

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Monday, March 23, 2015

Contact: Office of Business Opportunities at 803-545-3950

The City Calls for Entries for InnovateHER

The City's Office of Business Opportunities (OBO), in partnership with Columbia College and the USC-Columbia Technology Incubator, is calling for entries for the 2015 Innovating for Women Business Challenge.

InnovateHER provides an opportunity for entrepreneurs to showcase innovative products and services that help impact and empower the lives of women and families. Applicants must demonstrate the following and will be scored accordingly:

1. Have a measurable impact on the lives of women and families (30 percent)
2. Have the potential for commercialization (40 percent)
3. Fill a need in the marketplace (30 percent)

To participate, applicants must complete the InnovateHER interest application and submit a business plan, including an executive summary, no later than **Friday, March 27, 2015 at noon.**

Visit ColumbiaSC.net/obo for the application and additional entry information.

###



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Monday, March 23, 2015

Contact: Shireese M. Bell at 803-760-9125 or smbell@columbiasc.net

City of Columbia's Annual National Youth Violence Prevention Week Begins Monday

The City of Columbia's annual National Youth Violence Prevention Week (NYVPW) begins **today**, March 23, 2015 with a Violence Prevention Expo at Hyatt Park, 950 Jackson Avenue from 6-8 p.m.

National Youth Violence Prevention Week is held in order to raise awareness and educate students, teachers, school administrators and staff, school resource officers, parents and the public on effective ways to prevent and reduce youth violence. Councilwoman Tameika Isaac Devine initiated the City's involvement with National Youth Violence Prevention Week.

"Youth violence has a tremendous and often lifelong impact on families, schools and the entire community. We must work together to make the positive changes needed to save our young people from this national epidemic," Councilwoman Tameika Isaac Devine stated. "While we emphasize the importance of positive intervention during National Youth Violence Prevention Week, we want the community to know that there are resources available to them throughout the year."

Various planned activities will demonstrate the positive role young people can have in making their schools and communities safer. **All events are free and open to the public.** Youth, adults, parents, mentors and youth leaders are encouraged to attend.

Schedule of Events

Monday, March 23, 2015***Violence Prevention Expo***

Hyatt Park, 950 Jackson Avenue

6-8 p.m.

Agencies and organizations will be on hand to provide information on a variety of programs, resources, activities and events that will assist youth in making better life choices.

Tuesday, March 24, 2015***Protecting Our Children***

Martin Luther King, Jr. Park, 2300 Greene Street

6-8 p.m.

There will be seminars on bullying, gangs and sexual assault. The seminars are open to youth and adults.

Wednesday, March 25, 2015***"The Insiders" – South Carolina Department of Juvenile Justice***

Charles R. Drew Wellness Center, 2101 Walker Solomon Way

6-8 p.m.

"The Insiders" is a special group of juveniles who travel throughout the state encouraging troubled children and promoting community awareness of the prevalence and consequences of juvenile crime.

Thursday, March 26, 2015***The Aftermath of Youth Violence***

City Hall, 1737 Main Street

6-8 p.m.

A panel discussion for youth and adults to ask questions about the effects that youth violence has had on their lives and families.

Friday, March 27, 2015***Game Night: A Night of Non-Violence***

Greenview Park, 6700 David Street; Hyatt Park, 950 Jackson Avenue; King Park, 2300 Greene Street; Pinehurst Park, 2300 Pinehurst Road; and Lorick Park, 1600 Lorick Avenue

6-10 p.m.

City community centers will operate on extended hours of "play" so that our youth may engage in positive activities.

For more information, please call the City's Parks and Recreation Department at 803-545-3100 or visit www.columbiasc.net.

****Please see the attached flyer***

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Tuesday, March 24, 2015

Contact: Office of Business Opportunities at 803-545-3950

The City's Office of Business Opportunities to Hold Social Media Workshop for Small Businesses

The Office of Business Opportunities, in partnership with ECI-Find New Markets, is holding a social media workshop for small businesses on Thursday, March 26 at 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at 1301 Gervais Street. Registration is required.

The training is designed to teach small businesses strategies and tactics for social media sites including Twitter, Google+, Facebook, Pinterest, Tumblr and LinkedIn to better serve their businesses.

The cost to register is \$10. To register, click [here](#).

For more information, contact the Office of Business Opportunities at 803-545-3950.

###

Contact: Shireese M. Bell at 803-760-9125 or smbell@columbiasc.net

Competitive events will feature a variety of activities including basketball, billiards, disc golf, swimming, horseshoes, track, tennis and more.

Monday 18, 2015	May	Tuesday May 19, 2015	May	Wednesday 20, 2015	May	Thursday 21, 2015	May	Friday 22, 2015	May
OWENS FIELD <i>1351 Jim Hamilton Boulevard</i>		JAMES E. CLYBURN GOLF CENTER <i>2091 Slighs Avenue</i>		GREENVIEW PARK <i>6700 David Street</i>		MAXCY GREGG POOL <i>1655 Park Circle</i>		GREENVIEW PARK <i>6700 David Street</i>	
Disc Golf 6:30pm		Longest Drive 6:00pm		Ping Pong 6:30pm		Horseshoes 6:00pm		Basketball: Free Throw, 6:00pm	
Track & Field: Long Jump 6:30pm		Closet to the Pin (120 yards) 6:30pm		Tennis: Singles 6:00pm		Swimming: Freestyle 6:00pm		3 on 3 6:30pm	
40-yard Dash 7:00pm		Putting 7:00pm		Doubles 7:00pm		Back Stroke 6:30pm		End of Games Cookout 7:00pm	
100-yard Dash 7:30pm				Mixed Doubles 7:30pm		Breast Stroke 7:00pm			
Softball Throw 7:45pm									

The fee to register is \$20 per participant which includes a souvenir bag, two wristbands for a cookout to be held at the end of the competition and a T-shirt. There is a \$5 fee for each additional wristband for the cookout.

Participants must register by May 1, 2015. Registration forms are available at the following locations:

- [City recreation centers](#)
- Parks and Recreation Administration Office, 1111 Parkside Drive, Columbia, SC 29203
- Online at Parks and Recreation Department's "[Senior Programs Events](#)" page

For more information, please contact the City of Columbia Parks and Recreation Department at 803-545-3100 or email kcmitchell@columbiasc.net.

###

****Please see the attached flyer and registration form***

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Thursday, March 26, 2015

Contact: Office of Business Opportunities at 803-545-3950

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###



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Thursday, March 26, 2015

Contact: Shireese M. Bell at 803-760-9125 or smbell@columbiasc.net

Mayor Steve Benjamin and the City of Columbia to Host Let's Move! Columbia Easter Egg Hunt

WHAT: Mayor Steve Benjamin and family along with the City of Columbia will host the annual Let's Move! Columbia Easter Egg Hunt. The event is free and open to the public. The event will include "Eggs"ercises, an Easter Egg Hunt, face painting, exhibitors, refreshments and more!

WHO: Mayor Steve Benjamin, First Lady DeAndrea Benjamin, Bethany and Jordan Grace Benjamin

WHERE: Finlay Park, 930 Laurel Street

WHEN: 1-3 p.m. Friday, April 3, 2015

For more information, please call the City of Columbia Parks & Recreation Department at 803-545-3100 or email kcmitchell@columbiasc.net.

###

****Please see the attached flyer***



For Immediate Release

March 27, 2015

Contact: Sara Hollar, Forestry and Beautification at 545-3860

SCE&G To Perform Tree Trimming Activities As Scheduled for 2015

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Elmwood Park
Cottontown/Bellevue Historic District
Downtown Neighborhood Association

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For more information about SCE&G's tree trimming efforts, including helpful tips and suggestions regarding the planting of trees and other vegetation, visit www.sceg.com/treetrimming.

You can also contact SCE&G's 24 hour Customer Service Center toll-free at 1-800-251-7234 or email SCEGContactUs@SCANA.com

For continued updates from the city of Columbia follow us on Twitter [@cityofcolumbia](https://twitter.com/cityofcolumbia) or "like" the [City of Columbia](https://www.facebook.com/cityofcolumbia) on Facebook.

###

Related Links:

[Tree Trimming Neighborhood Maps](#)

VIDEO: [Tree Trimming: Safety, Reliability and Healthy Trees](#)

**For Immediate Release**

March 27, 2015

Contact: Public Relations, Marketing and Media @ 545-3020

Lights Out for #EarthHour in the City of Columbia

On Saturday March 28, 2015 at 8:30pm, the City of Columbia will join hundreds of millions of other cities, businesses and organizations across the globe in switching off all nonessential lights in City buildings for one hour – Earth Hour, the world's largest public environmental action. By taking part in this global event the City will be acknowledging its commitment to personal and operational actions that benefit the planet in the year ahead.

The City of Columbia has taken steps to go beyond Earth Hour by reducing greenhouse gas emissions and increasing energy efficiency, including establishing the Climate Protection Action Campaign (CPAC), retrofitting light fixtures in all City facilities and planting trees via the 10,000 Trees program.

The City is encouraging citizens to also participate in Earth Hour by turning off lights, and unplugging appliances using electricity for one hour between 8:30 and 9:30 p.m. and by encouraging their neighbors, local businesses and organizations to join in the effort to increase energy conservation.

###

About Earth Hour:

Earth Hour began as a single-city initiative – in Sydney, Australia – in 2007 and has since grown into a global movement with hundreds of millions of people from more than 7,000 cities and towns in 152 countries/territories across every continent switching off their lights for Earth Hour, creating history as the world's greatest ever environmental action.

[Earth Hour Website](#)



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Monday, March 30, 2015

Contact: Shireese M. Bell at 803-760-9125 or smbell@columbiasc.net

Mayor Steve Benjamin and the City of Columbia to Host Let's Move! Columbia Easter Egg Hunt

WHAT: Mayor Steve Benjamin and family along with the City of Columbia will host the annual Let's Move! Columbia Easter Egg Hunt. The event is free and open to the public. The event will include "Eggs"ercises, an Easter Egg Hunt, face painting, exhibitors, refreshments and more!

WHO: Mayor Steve Benjamin, Judge DeAndrea Benjamin, Bethany and Jordan Grace Benjamin

WHERE: Finlay Park, 930 Laurel Street

WHEN: 1-3 p.m. Friday, April 3, 2015

For more information, please call the City of Columbia Parks & Recreation Department at 803-545-3100 or email kcmitchell@columbiasc.net.

###

**Please see the attached flyer*



We Are Columbia

Press Release

Public Relations, Marketing and Media Department

(P) 805-545-3020 | (F) 803-343-8719

pio@columbiasc.net | www.columbiasc.net

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Monday, March 30, 2015

Contact: Marli Drum at 803-776-PETS

Pet of the Week: Coco! (ID# A177086)

Coco is a four-year-old German Shepherd mix. She is extremely loyal and a perfect family pet. Coco is also spayed and microchipped.

Visit Coco and other pets available for adoption at the Columbia Animal Shelter, 127 Humane Lane. Visit www.columbiasc.net/animal-services or call 803-776-PETS for more information.

All of our pets need loving homes! To view other animals available for adoption, visit Petfinder.com. Please refer to the ID number listed above when visiting the website.

###

**Please see attached for photo.*



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Monday, March 30, 2015

Contact: Shireese M. Bell at 803-760-9125 or smbell@columbiasc.net

Active Adults Olympic Games

The City of Columbia Parks and Recreation Department is sponsoring the Active Adults Olympic Games for adults age 50 and older.

Bring your friends and family, and show off your athletic skills during this five-day competition.

The Active Adults Olympic Games will be held Monday, May 18, 2015 through Friday, May 22, 2015. Competitions will be held in the evenings. Times and locations will vary. Olympic-style medals will be awarded.

Competitive events will feature a variety of activities including basketball, billiards, disc golf, swimming, horseshoes, track, tennis and more.

Schedule of Olympic Events

Monday 18, 2015	May	Tuesday May 19, 2015	Wednesday 20, 2015	May	Thursday 21, 2015	May	Friday 22, 2015	May
OWENS FIELD 1351 Jim Hamilton Boulevard		JAMES E. CLYBURN GOLF CENTER 2091 Slighs Avenue		GREENVIEW PARK 6700 David Street		MAXCY GREGG POOL 1655 Park Circle		GREENVIEW PARK 6700 David Street
Disc Golf	6:30pm	Longest Drive			Ping Pong	6:30pm	Horseshoes	6:00pm
					Billiards	7:00pm	Bocce Ball	6:00pm
Track & Field:					Tennis:		Swimming:	
Long Jump	6:30pm	Closet to the Pin (120 yards)			Singles	6:00pm	Freestyle	6:00pm
					Doubles	7:00pm	Back Stroke	6:30pm
40-yard Dash	7:00pm	Putting	7:00pm		Mixed Doubles	7:30pm	Breast Stroke	7:00pm
100-yard Dash	7:30pm							
Softball Throw	7:45pm							
								Basketball: Free Throw, 6:00pm
								3 on 3 6:30pm
								End of Games Cookout 7:00pm

The fee to register is \$20 per participant which includes a souvenir bag, two wristbands for a cookout to be held at the end of the competition and a T-shirt. There is a \$5 fee for each additional wristband for the cookout.

Participants must register by May 1, 2015. Registration forms are available at the following locations:

- [City recreation centers](#)
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- Online at Parks and Recreation Department's "[Senior Programs Events](#)" page

For more information, please contact the City of Columbia Parks and Recreation Department at 803-545-3100 or email kcmitchell@columbiasc.net.

###

****Please see the attached flyer***



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

March 30, 2015

Contact: Public Relations, Marketing & Media @ 545-3020

City Offices to Close in Observance of Good Friday

City of Columbia offices will be closed on Friday, April 3, 2015 in observance of Good Friday.

All garbage and recycle routes will remain on schedule.

###



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Monday, March 30, 2015

Contact: Office of Business Opportunities at 803-545-3950

City to Host Pitch Competition for InnovateHER

WHAT: They City's Office of Business Opportunities is hosting a pitch competition for the national women's business challenge InnovateHER.

WHO: Business finalists and entrepreneurs

WHERE: SOCO 823 Gervais Street #220 Columbia, SC 29201

WHEN: Today at 6 p.m.

InnovateHER is a national women's business challenge sponsored by the Small Business Administration (SBA) seeking innovative products and services that help impact and empower the lives of women and families.

For more information, contact Office of Business Opportunities at 803-545-3950.

**see attached for flyer*



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Monday, March 30, 2015

Contact: Shireese M. Bell at 803-760-9125 or email smbell@columbiasc.net

Greenview Park Pool Groundbreaking

The City of Columbia Parks and Recreation Department will hold a special groundbreaking ceremony for the pool area at Greenview Park. A reception will be held immediately following the ceremony.

WHAT: Greenview Park Pool Groundbreaking

WHO: City Council members, City staff and Community leaders

WHERE: Greenview Park, 6700 David Street

WHEN: Saturday, April 11, 2015 at 3 p.m.

For more information, call the Public Relations Department at 803-545-3020.

###



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Monday, March 30, 2015

Contact: Shireese M. Bell at 803-760-9125 or smbell@columbiasc.net

Let's Move! Columbia #GimmeFive Family Fitness Day

In honor of the 5th anniversary of the national Let's Move! initiative, join the City of Columbia for Let's Move! Columbia #GimmeFive Family Fitness Day on Saturday, May 16 at the Charles R. Drew Wellness Center.

South Carolina has the 2nd highest childhood obesity rate in the country for ages 10-17 and ranks No. 10 in the country for adult obesity. Let's Move! Columbia #GimmeFive Family Fitness Day is the perfect event for youth and their family to learn more ways they can live a healthier life.

The free event will feature a special appearance by **Marcus Lattimore**, former NFL and University of South Carolina football player, as well as a variety of activities including an obstacle course, relay races, cooking demonstrations, an activity zone, health fair and more.

WHAT: Let's Move! Columbia #GimmeFive Family Fun Day

WHERE: Charles R. Drew Wellness Center, 2101 Walker Solomon Way, Columbia, SC 29204

WHEN: Saturday, May 16, 2015 from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Nonprofit health and wellness organizations interested in being an exhibitor can register for free.

For more information about Let's Move! Columbia #GimmeFive Family Fitness Day or to register as an exhibitor, please contact Wanda Austin at 803-315-4964 or weaustin@columbiasc.net.

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Tuesday, March 31, 2015

Contact: Office of Business Opportunities at 803-545-3950

City to Hold How to Land a Government Contract Workshop

The Office of Business Opportunities is hosting a How to Land a Government Contract Workshop on Thursday, April 16 from 11 a.m. – 1 p.m. at 1509 Lady Street. The guest speaker will be Scott H. Bellows, a member of the Association of Procurement Technical Assistance Centers (APTAC) and a former contracting officer with the Agency for International Development.

The goal is to help contractors understand what they need in order to land a government contract with an emphasis on state and federal contracting. Topics that will be covered include registering with the government, where to find bids and how to find subcontracting work.

Registration is \$15. To register, click [here](#).

For more information, contact the Office of Business Opportunities at 803-545-3950 or ColumbiaSC.net/obo.

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